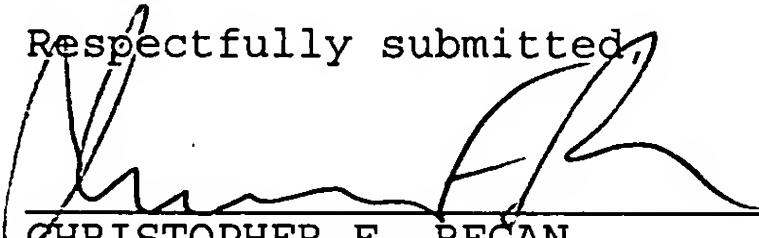


In re Patent Application of:  
**MEARS**  
Serial No. 10/717,370  
Filed: 11/19/03  
Attorney Docket: 62603\_CON2

**REMARKS**

It is believed that all of the claims are patentable over the prior art. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should the Examiner determine any minor informalities that need to be addressed, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2004.

